

December 10, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After the AP exam, we will be done with the content required for this course but there is still over a month left of school. I would like to take this opportunity to let the students explore a topic or important figure from physics in greater detail. Project topic examples include: string theory, time travel, quantum entanglement, Newton, Tesla, Stephen Hawking or Einstein. As an assessment I would like students to create a website using Google Sites. An overview can be found at <http://www.google.com/sites/overview.html>

Google Sites (sites.google.com) is a free web tool for creating and sharing information on the web. Students can use a Google account to manage their website. If your son or daughter does not already have one, (s)he will have to create one.

Creating a website instead of writing a paper or creating a poster allows students to gain new useful skills. Even after it gets graded, this project can become a lasting part of the internet instead of discarded and forgotten like most projects.

Students will have the option to work alone or in partners. Pairs can use the collaborative function of Google Sites to manage permissions to designate the website owners and collaborators. Students can also set viewer permissions, so if you have any reservations about your child making a public website, he/she can set his/her website to invitation only.

Students will not be asked put any personal information on their websites and the websites will include a disclaimer that it was made for a high school project and should not be taken as an authoritative source.

I will teach students about copyright laws and proper citations and point them to appropriate sources and tools to find their information and any pictures/graphics they might need. This projects will serve a dual function of presenting the information gathered and giving students the opportunity to practice building their own website. This is a very useful tool in the age of digital media.

If you have any lingering concerns about this project, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail. I would love for everyone to participate in this project, but I can find a viable alternative if there is an issue. If you agree to let your son/daughter use google sites for their project please sign below and send this form back with your son/daughter.

Sincerely,

Miss Espina

I _____ give my son/daughter _____ permission to:

☐ create a website for his/her physics project.

☐ make the website public.

signature

date: _____